



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ACTION MEMORANDUM

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Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

Change to

(☒ Release) (☐ Excise) (☐ Deny) (☐ Declassify

Exemptions b () () E.O. 13526 25x () ()

Declassify after

With concurrence of:

IPS by obtained not obt.

Date 11-3-10

To: The Secretary

From: HA - Patricia M. Derian *cms for P*

Secretary's Trip to Argentina
and Brazil and Human Rights

In viewing the current schedule within Brazil and Argentina, I am concerned that no visible opportunity exists for you to demonstrate your own personal commitment and the Administration's to human rights. I appreciate that much of the discussion with the governments in question will focus on human rights issues. Nevertheless, except for the receptions now planned, there is no public opportunity to answer the kind of concern that has been expressed by many outsiders about the trip.

I therefore would suggest that you agree to meet privately--even for a very brief period of time--some representatives of the human rights victims in those countries. In Argentina, it could be a short meeting just prior to the reception with the Permanent Commission on Human Rights. In Brazil, it could be a brief meeting prior to the reception with Cardinal Arns, other religious leaders or with the leaders of the bar who recently have been sharply critical of due process violations. I am sure that if they were invited, they would arrange to be in Brasilia for the meeting.

Such a meeting in each country, along with the human rights focus which will be part of the discussions with Videla and Geisel, will answer critics. It will show personal concern and it will permit answers to the inevitable questions from the press as to whether you had met privately with non-governmental individuals regarding human rights. I do not believe that the reception itself will serve that purpose. I do believe that even a single brief

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meeting in each country with human rights representatives will suffice to underline our human rights concerns.

ARA View

ARA, however, believes that the proposal does not distinguish sufficiently between the two nations nor does it highlight sufficiently the time that would be required (a half hour per meeting). He agrees with Ambassador Crimmins that a special meeting in Brasilia between the Secretary and, say, Cardinal Arns poses a considerable risk of offending the Brazilian Government at hazard to other objectives of the trip. ARA believes the Brazilian guest list, which is good but limited to residents of Brasilia, be expanded slightly to include a mix from some of the major centers outside of Brasilia, a rubric for including Arns among others. (Ambassador Crimmins believes that "summoning" important Brazilian human rights advocates to Brasilia would be highly annoying to the GOB and smacks of arrogance. He also notes that the Brazilian Confederation of Bishops, located in Brasilia, is on the list.)

In the case of Buenos Aires, Ambassador Castro does not object to a meeting with the Permanent Commission on Human Rights so long as it is held in the Chancery. He believes the optimum solution would be to have me meet with them, particularly given the scheduling difficulties we are having. ARA adds that if you were to meet with a human rights group, it would be better to focus on representatives of the Jewish Community, though a mixed group would also be possible.

Recommendations:

1. That you meet with a human rights group in Brazil.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

2. That you meet with the Permanent Commission on Human Rights in Argentina.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

3.

3. That you meet with representatives
of the Jewish Community in Argentina.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

ALTERNATIVELY, that I meet with the Permanent
Commission on Human Rights in Buenos Aires
(ARA favors).

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Drafted: HA/HR:MLSchneider/ARA:FJMcNeil
Ext.21181 / Ext. 24754 11/17/77
Concurrence - ARA - Ambassador Todman

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